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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/756,214	01/09/2001	Kenji Yamashita	Q62578	4067

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EXAMINER

EWOLDT, GERALD R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1644	8

DATE MAILED: 07/02/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/756,214	Applicant(s) Yamashita et al.
Examiner G.R. Ewoldt	Art Unit 1644



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 16, 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 20-25 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 20-25 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/254,170.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 2

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. It is requested that Applicant include in the priority data in the first paragraph of the specification the claim of the benefit of priority to Japan Application 233316/1966, if said benefit of priority is desired.
2. Applicant's election of the species, a combination of anti-CD2 and anti-CD3 antibodies, in Paper No. 7, filed 4/16/02, without traverse, is acknowledged.
3. Claims 20-25 are pending and being acted upon.
4. New corrected drawings must be filed with the changes incorporated therein. See the attached PTO Form-948 Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin. If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings MUST be filed within the THREE MONTH shortened statutory period set for reply in the "Notice of Allowability." Extensions of time may NOT be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

Corrections other than Informalities Noted by Draftsperson on form PTO-948. All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Draftsperson, MUST be made in the same manner as above except that, normally, a highlighted (preferably red ink) sketch of the changes to be incorporated into the new drawings MUST be approved by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to be made, other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the proposed changes.

Timing of Corrections. Note that the filing of corrected drawings may no longer be held in abeyance until such time as claims are found allowable. Applicant is required to submit acceptable corrected drawings within the time period set in the Office action. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Failure to take corrective

action within the set period will result in ABANDONMENT of the application.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 20-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,171,799 in view of Schwarz et al. (1995, IDS) as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 4,956,150 and Johnson, 1999.

The '799 patent teaches culture device for the culturing of immunosuppressive (suppressor) cells, with an affinity for protein, wherein prior to cell culturing the culture device is coated with an anti-CD3 antibody (OKT3) (see particularly column 33, lines 30-53).

The reference differs from the claimed invention in that it does not teach a device further coated with an anti-CD2 antibody, in particular, the TS2/18 antibody produced by the hybridoma HB195.

Schwarz et al teaches the culture of T cells with the anti-CD2 TS2/18 antibody and that said culture results in inhibitory effects on T cell activation (see particularly page 5816, column 1, paragraph 4). The reference further teaches that the epitope recognized by TS2/18 is a candidate for CD2-directed immunosuppression (see particularly page 5817, column 2, paragraph 3).

It would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a 96-well plate as a culture device for the culturing of immunosuppressive (suppressor) cells, with an affinity for protein, wherein prior to cell culturing the culture device is coated with an anti-CD3 antibody, as taught by the '799 patent, additionally coating the plate with a an anti-CD2 TS2/18 antibody, as taught by the Schwarz et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to double-coat (anti-CD2 and anti-CD3) the plate because said double-coating should achieve

additional immunosuppression of the immunosuppressive suppressor T cells. "It is *prima facie* obvious to combine two compositions each of which is taught by the prior art to be useful for the same purpose, in order to form a third composition to be used for the very same purpose. . . [T]he idea of combining them flows logically from their having been individually taught in the prior art." *In re Kerkhoven*, 626 F.2d 846, 850, 205USPQ 1069, 1072 (CCPA 1980) (see MPEP 2144.06). Thus, the combination of antibodies would be obvious. Note that the references do not specifically teach that the 96-well plate comprising the culture device is plastic, nor that plastic has an affinity for protein. However, the Johnson reference teaches that 96-well plates have been primarily made of plastic (particularly polystyrene) since as early as 1962 (see particularly page 2, paragraph 2) while the '150 patent teaches that plastic (particularly polystyrene) has an inherent affinity for protein, in particular antibodies (see particularly column 5, lines 8-13).

7. No claim is allowed.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Gerald Ewoldt whose telephone number is (703) 308-9805. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on (703) 308-3973. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center 1600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technology Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technology Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The CM1 Fax Center telephone number is (703) 305-3014.


G.R. Ewoldt, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1600
June 10, 2002